



STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General enjoys a close working relationship with our federal partners. Today's indictments are evidence of the effectiveness of that partnership in countering fraud and corruption in City government.

The OIG's involvement in this matter began with an examination of the City crime camera program by our Inspections and Evaluation Division, which was referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office in February 2009.

Since that time, OIG Investigators have worked with Agents from the FBI and IRS to determine if persons employed by the City of New Orleans unlawfully profited from the crime camera contracts.

Specifically, OIG investigators interviewed witnesses such as City employees, City contractors, and current and former employees of City contractors. We recovered digital evidence, charted money flows, and reviewed documents that substantiated payments by the City of New Orleans, which were approved by Meffert and that ultimately benefitted Mark St. Pierre and his companies.

All who would defraud the people of New Orleans should realize that such acts will be detected and referred to the appropriate prosecutors.

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